

Debating

- a. Women are cleaner than men. vs. Men have better personal hygiene habits.
- b. Men are more intelligent than women. vs. Women are the ones with the brains.
- c. Women are funnier than men. vs. Men are much better at telling jokes.
- d. Men are more honest than women. vs. Women are more honest than men.
- e. Women are better dressed than men. vs. Men have the better sense of style.
- f. Men are more interesting than women. vs. Women are more interesting.
- g. Women are more sensible than men. vs. Men have the common sense.
- h. Men are kinder than women. vs. Women are a hundred times kinder than men.

TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true

- | | | |
|----|---|-------|
| a. | Women are obsessed when it comes to washing their hands. | T / F |
| b. | A study looked at hygiene habits in American lavatories. | T / F |
| c. | Only 35 percent of American men wash their hands in public toilets. | T / F |
| d. | In telephone interviews, people exaggerated how hygienic they are. | T / F |
| e. | A doctor recommended buying effective tools to prevent infections. | T / F |
| f. | The single most important way of staying healthy is to get a flu jab. | T / F |
| g. | Most colds are spread via airborne transmission from sneezing. | T / F |
| h. | Banknotes and coins are contaminated with illness-causing bacteria. | T / F |

Women wash hands more often than men

Women clean up and **beat men hands down** when it comes to washing their hands after using a public **lavatory**. A new observational study from the U.S. reveals that women are more **conscientious** in practicing hygiene habits than men in public toilets. The American Society for Microbiology (ASM) monitored the washroom habits of thousands of people in **restrooms** in four major U.S. cities. It found 90 percent of women washed their hands, compared with 75 percent of men. A parallel telephone survey revealed that men and women perhaps **exaggerate** how hygienic they are, with 97 percent of women and 96 percent of men saying they always or usually wash their hands after using a public restroom.

Dr. Judy Daly of the ASM advised: "One of the most effective tools in preventing the **spread** of infection is **literally** at our **fingertips**. The single most important thing we can do to keep from getting sick and spreading illness to others is to clean our hands. Flu viruses are **readily** transferred from unclean hands." She explained that **contrary to** what many people believe, cold and flu viruses are spread by hands more often than through **airborne** transmission from sneezing. However, the study found only 42 percent wash after **petting** a dog or cat, 32 percent after **coughing** or sneezing and 21 percent after **handling** money. **Unbeknown** to most, 75 percent to 95 percent of banknotes and coins are **contaminated** with illness-causing bacteria.

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | | |
|----|---------------|---------------|
| a. | clean up | infected |
| b. | hands down | truly |
| c. | conscientious | overstate |
| d. | parallel | easily |
| e. | exaggerate | opposite |
| f. | literally | diligent |
| g. | contrary | oblivious |
| h. | transmission | win |
| i. | unbeknown | passing on |
| j. | contaminated | corresponding |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| a. beat men hands | exaggerate how hygienic they are |
| b. when it comes | transmission |
| c. women are more conscientious in | to most |
| d. a parallel | practicing hygiene habits |
| e. men and women perhaps | the spread of infection |
| f. effective tools in preventing | with illness-causing bacteria |
| g. contrary to | down |
| h. airborne | what many people believe |
| i. Unbeknown | to washing their hands |
| j. contaminated | telephone survey |

Choose the correct word

Women clean up and beat men hands *up / down* when it *goes / comes* to washing their hands after using a public lavatory. A new observational study from the U.S. reveals that women are more *conscientious / consecutive* in practicing hygiene habits than men in public toilets. The American Society for Microbiology (ASM) monitored the washroom *habits / habitats* of thousands of people in restrooms in four major U.S. cities. It found 90 percent of women washed their hands, compared with 75 percent of men. A *parallel / paranoid* telephone survey revealed that men and women perhaps *exonerate / exaggerate* how hygienic they are, with 97 percent of women and 96 percent of men saying they always or usually wash their hands after using a public restroom.

Dr. Judy Daly of the ASM advised: "One of the most effective tools in preventing the spread of infection is *literally / figuratively* at our fingertips. The *single / double* most important thing we can do to keep from getting sick and spreading illness to others is to clean our hands. Flu viruses are *readily / ready-made* transferred from unclean hands." She explained that *contrary / controversial* to what many people believe, cold and flu viruses are spread by hands more often than through *airy-fairy / airborne* transmission from sneezing. However, the study found only 42 percent wash after petting a dog or cat, 32 percent after coughing or sneezing and 21 percent after handling money. *Unbeknown / Unbecoming* to most, 75 percent to 95 percent of banknotes and coins are contaminated with illness-causing bacteria.

Look at the words below. Try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| • beat | • effective |
| • conscientious | • single |
| • habits | • readily |
| • parallel | • transmission |
| • exaggerate | • petting |
| • always | • contaminated |

- Are you very conscientious when it comes to personal hygiene?
- Do you wash your hands without fail every time you go to the toilet?
- What do you think of public toilets?
- Do you have a special routine every time you use a public toilet?
- What is the worst public toilet you have ever used?
- How do the public toilets in your country compare with those in other countries?
- Why do you think women are more hygienic than men?
- Do you think people in your country are very hygienic?
- Do you think people from your country wash their hands more or less often than Americans?
- How often do you wash your hands after sneezing or petting animals?
- Will you wash your hands more often after this lesson?